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DE RUEHKO #1791 0940856  
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O 040856Z APR 06  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0499  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 2808  
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 1163  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1448  
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0373  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0954  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 9470  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 4884  
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0233  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 1941  
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 0098  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

UNCLAS TOKYO 001791

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GENEVA FOR DAVID HOHMAN

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [AORC](#) [PREL](#) [WHO](#) [JA](#)  
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: SMALLPOX AT THE WHA

REF: STATE 50724

11. (U) This is an action request. Please see paragraph 4.

12. (SBU) ESToff met with Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) Deputy Director for International Cooperation Shinichiro Noda, Tuberculosis and Infectious Diseases Control Division Official Ai Sato and others and delivered reftel demarche. Noda said that no one would represent the Ministry at the April 5 resolution drafting meeting to be held in Geneva. MHLW had originally considered sending someone, but due to scheduling conflicts, it was unable to dispatch any of its experts. ESToff suggested that it would be useful to send someone from the Japanese Mission in Geneva, even if experts from Tokyo could not attend. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs later confirmed that First Secretary Takako Tsujisaka would represent Japan at the meeting.

13. (SBU) Noda told ESToff that officials at his Ministry feel it is an appropriate time to continue discussing plans to destroy all remaining stocks of the Variola virus. Japan has yet to see the results from the most recent review conducted by the WHO Advisory Committee on Variola Virus Research. He said it was important to determine which research projects involving the smallpox virus were really necessary. Once this determination is made, it will be important to distinguish those projects that could be accomplished without using the live virus. Japan will carefully consider the draft and any other views that come out of the April 5 meeting in conjunction with the results from the Advisory Committee review to formulate its own position on setting a specific date for the destruction of the virus. Tokyo understands the post 9/11 implications of smallpox research, but believes that as soon as critical research is concluded, the Variola virus should be destroyed. Noda also said that it was important to consider the smallpox issue under the auspices of the Global Health Security Action Group (GHSAG). Noda expressed interest in further talking with the United States about the security implications of potentially hidden stocks of the virus.

-- Action Request --

14. (SBU) Noda concluded the meeting by asking ESToff if the United States would consider setting a date to destroy all

stocks of the smallpox virus once it has been determined that research on the virus has been fully exhausted. Post would appreciate any cleared language that we can pass to MHLW outlining the official USG position on the ultimate destruction of the Variola virus.

DONOVAN